WE CLAIM:

1. A communication system for advising an intended called party recipient of the availability

of the calling party sender for return messages, said system comprising:

a data terminal associated with each of said calling and called parties,

5 a message routing module for interconnecting said calling and called parties; and

a presence processor connected to said data terminal of said calling and called parties and

obtaining from a calling party information as to the status of a calling party,

said message routing module communicating with said presence processor in response to

said calling party not completing a call to said called party and said presence processor in

10 response thereto forwarding to the data terminal of said called party status information with

respect to said calling party.

2. The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said presence processor

includes circuitry for communicating with said data terminals and said call routing module,

a datastore for storing status information, and status processor.

15 3. The communication system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said communication

system is a telephone system.

4. The communication system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said call routing module is

a call agent.

5. The communication system in accordance with claim 4, wherein communications between

20 said call agent, said presence processor, and said calling and called parties, including said

data terminals, are through a packet-based communication network.

6. The communication system in accordance with claim 5, further including a residential

gateway between each of said calling and called parties and said packet-based

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communication network.

7. The communication system in accordance with claim 3, wherein said call routing module is a telephone switch and said presence processor is a service control point.

8. The communication system in accordance with claim 6, further including a packet based

5    network connecting said service control point to said data terminals of said calling and

called parties.

9. The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said data terminal includes a scheduling calendar, said presence processor obtaining status information for said

scheduling calendar.

10   10. The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said status information

indicates the calling party's availability for return communication from the called party.

11. The communication system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said presence processor

is operative to dynamically update said status information.